

Letter to Students

Dear Students,

We would like to tell you about an exciting program that you will participate in soon. This program will take you back in time to the late 1700s when the Hudson River was a major route for transportation and trade, and Albany's connection to the outside world. You will become one of the many people who traveled the river at that time, and learn how to find your way using only the stars. The program is called the **Hudson River Trading Game & Navigating the Seas**.

During the program you will learn about what the Hudson River was like over 200 years ago. You will also be introduced to two Albany *merchants*, Philip Van Rensselaer and Stewart Dean. These men owned *sloops*, a type of sailboat, and traded goods between Albany and New York. Stewart Dean traveled very far from Albany and was involved in *trade* throughout the world.

When you play the **Hudson River Trading Game**, you will pretend that you are traveling on a sloop on the river. Some of you will be a *sloop captain* or a *sloop hand*. Others of you will be *passengers* traveling on the sloop. The sloop will leave from Albany, loaded with *hay*, *staves* and other *cargo*. The sloop will sail to New York where the cargo will be sold. *Sugar*, *rum*, *tea*, and other new cargo will be bought there. Philip Van Rensselaer's *agent*, Robert Ray, will help you buy and sell cargoes at the New York *market*. The sloop will sail back to Albany and the new cargo will be sold there. Along the way, both *down river* and *up river*, the sloop will pick up passengers. You will work in teams to navigate the river. The goal of the game is to make the trip with as few *delays* as possible and to make a *profit* from selling your cargo. How much profit a sloop made depended on luck and skill!

You will encounter many situations on the Hudson River game board—these were real things that happened to Philip Van Rensselaer's sloop or other sloops on the river. The passengers were also real people who once traveled on the river. The cargo in the sloop is just like the cargo Philip once carried on his sloop in the 1780s and 1790s.

You will also visit the **Henry Hudson Planetarium** and discover the challenges of being a global trader like Stewart Dean. You will see how he used the stars to find his way around the world.

We look forward to seeing you at the Visitors Center!

Sincerely,

Your friends at Historic Cherry Hill and the Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center

Words in the Hudson River Trading Game

Directions: You will hear or read the vocabulary words listed below when you play the *Hudson River Trading Game*. You will also hear and see the vocabulary in LETTER TO STUDENTS on page 2a.

Vocabulary List

Agent - A person who is hired to buy and sell items for someone

Cargo - Items or goods which are carried in a sloop or ship

Credit - Letting someone buy something, trusting they will pay for it later

Delay - To slow down for a time

Down river - Toward the mouth or end of a river; **Up river** – Toward the source or beginning of a river

Market - A place where goods are bought and sold; large markets have many buildings and open spaces

Merchant - A business man who buys and sells goods for a profit; a trader

Passenger - Someone who rides in something, like a boat, car, train or bus

Profit - Making money from buying or selling

Sloop - Type of sailboat used on the Hudson River; it was powered by wind, was large and wide, and had a cabin for passengers and was used to carry cargo

Sloop captain - A person in charge of the sloop

Sloop hand - A person who worked on the sloop under the direction of the captain

Trade - Business of exchanging goods for other goods or for money

MERCHANT Fill in the Blanks

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct word or term from the *Words in the Game* (p. 2b) vocabulary list

1. Philip Van Rensselaer was a _____ who traded on the Hudson River.
2. Many people from Albany were involved in the business of Hudson River _____, exchanging goods for other goods or for money at places along the river.
3. Philip owned a boat called a _____ which sailed on the Hudson River.
4. Robert Ray was the name of Philip's _____ who helped him buy and sell his goods in New York.
5. Philip tried to make as much money or _____ as he could from his business.
6. The sloop _____ had many responsibilities. He oversaw a crew of sloop _____ who worked on board and he took care of all the _____ who traveled on the sloop.
7. The _____ in New York City was the largest on the Hudson River. It was crowded with people, horses and carts of items to be bought or sold.
8. In the 1700s merchants most often did not pay money for items they bought but got them on _____.
9. When Philip's sloop traveled to New York City, it carried a _____. These goods came from Albany and other nearby places.
10. The sloop traveled _____ when it sailed towards New York City, located at the mouth of the Hudson River. After picking up goods in New York City, the sloop traveled _____ when it sailed towards Albany, located near the source or beginning of the river.
11. Sometimes Philip's sloop had _____ caused by bad weather, sickness or other problems.